

New Housekeeping Bureau To Check State Spending

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District

How to shape our state government so it will best perform its many functions is a perennial problem for us Legislators. Over the years since our first session in Gold Rush days, we have spent much of our time aligning and re-aligning governmental operations and units to assure maximum efficiency and economy. New serv-

ices have had to be dove-tailed into the existing framework, and changing technology and society have required frequent reshaping of older organizations.

Our 1963 regular session, like its predecessors, devoted much attention to state organization. Many proposals to add new functions or to expand existing ones were dropped into the hopper. There was also a continuance of the program to streamline the executive departments to improve operations, which was begun in 1961.

THE MOST important change enacted into law from the standpoint of potential tax savings and efficiency was the establishment of a new General Services Department. This organization is designed to take over all of the "housekeeping" functions previously assigned to the Finance Department — such as property management, purchasing, communications, and the like — and certain advisory services to other state departments, relating to management, auditing, and procedures.

The idea for such a housekeeping department in California government goes back some 15 years, when the "Little Hoover" commission first recommended it, but a similar agency in the federal government has demonstrated its value over a period of years.

ALSO INCLUDED in the new department are the offices of the State Architect and the State Printer, and the division of administrative procedures, which handles hearings and protests in matters relating to

the wide variety of state licenses for businesses and professions.

Such a department may not at first glance seem too important to the average citizen. However, it will rank as the sixth largest department of state, will have more than 4,000 employees (mostly transferred from Finance), and will control more than \$300 million in state expenditures per year, for purchasing, construction, printing, and allocation to local government. The Legislative Analyst has estimated the ad-

ditional cost of the new department at \$150,000. Obviously, if it is to be successful, the agency must effect economies far greater than that amount.

THE RECORD also shows that the 1963 Legislature established some 20 commissions or committees to carry on studies or pilot operations in various fields. Some 200 memberships in these bodies were provided, to be filled by appointment. The Legislative Analyst has estimated their total cost at about \$1 million per year.

Hollywood Reporter

By Mike Connolly

Mike's Thursday Mailbag
Dear Mike: I'm glad Mercedes McCambridge has gone back to acting but why did she try to commit suicide?—Ethel Mary Ross, Port Alice, B.C.

"A Tale of Two Cities," but Blanche Yurka. Isabel played the seamstress who went to the guillotine. — Mrs. Frank Romagnolo, Lansing, Ill.

Dear Ethel Mary: I assume you're referring to the news report that Mercedes took an overdose of barbiturates. Here's her explanation: "My son suffered two accidents that brought him close to death and I had three, one on the soundstage at Warner Brothers, another (broken foot) while rehearsing to tour in 'The Little Foxes' and a third (two broken fingers) while riding in a taxi with Adlai Stevenson. Meeting police, the press, insurance investigators, attorneys and highway patrolmen, my days were full of demands unfamiliar to me. I could have managed 'the mother part' of it but beyond that I was father and lawyer and finance-handler and relative-soother. I was frightened, bewildered, confused, alone—and I guess it happened to me. But now my son and I are clear of the woods and things will be all right." Okey, Ethel Mary?

Dear Mrs. Romagnolo: They were both sewing something. That's what threw me. Thanks to you, Betty Curiel of Long Island City and the many others who wrote in to straighten my seams.

Dear Mike: Your news item about actor Stanley Immerman changing his name to Zip Code intrigues us. We would like his autographed photo for inclusion in a ZIP Code progress report furnished Washington monthly. We would also furnish with literature, posters and decals suitable for his mailbox and automobile. — Paul S. Bradford, ZIP Code Coordinator, Pasadena, Calif.

Dear Mr. Connolly: I've had some terrible dreams about Judy Garland lately. They say dreams don't come true. I hope so because I'm a great fan and admirer of Judy's. — G. D., Tampa, Fla.

Dear Paul: Zip got discouraged and went back to New York to try for a part in a new play. I presume this puts him under the jurisdiction of the ZIP people in Greenwich Village, where he's living. Keep that mail pouring in here, Paul!

Dear Mr. Connolly: You stated in your column that Robert Preston is 50 years old. Time Magazine said he's 45 and another magazine said 44. I sure would like to know how old he really is. — L. E., Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir: What's all this jazz about Sir Laurence Olivier starting a campaign to open Shakespeare's tomb in an effort to prove that the Bard really wrote his own plays? I think it's the most stupid thing I've ever heard. — Dale Raskopf, Jamaica, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Connolly: Your column claims that Liz Taylor and Richard Burton will next co-star in "The Sandpiper." I heard they'll film the old Pindall play, "Six Characters in Search of an Author," with Ted Mann producing. Who's right? — Ashton Kieffer, Whittier, Calif.

Dear Ashton: Ted tried but couldn't get them so now he's making contract-signing passes at newlyweds Joan Collins and Tony Newley. Liz, who hasn't yet signed for "The Sandpiper," wants to do it but ONLY with Burton as co-star.

Dear L. E.: He was born June 8, 1913, so he's sneaking up on 51.

Dear Mike: Thanks for your exclusive report on Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy. Oh, PLEASE let's have more about our marvelous old-time stars that we hear so little about and long so much to see in movies again. — Pauline Sicotte, Repentigny, P. Q., Canada.

Dear Pauline: Nelson is touring the nightclubs and Jeanette is happy just being Mrs. Gene Raymond but Pola Negri is making a comeback in Walt Disney's new Hayley Mills movie, "The Moon Spinners." I'll try to keep you posted on the old-timers because I'm a 'way-back buff too.

Dear Mike: It was not Isabel Jewell who played Mme. Defarge in

Jean Cornmesser, president of the Southwest Escrow Assn. and manager of Bay Shore Escrow, and Marguerite Rollins, escrow supervisor at American Savings' Redondo Beach office, will be delegates to the Educational Conference of the California Escrow Assn., Saturday, at the Biltmore Hotel.

State Escrow Assn. to Meet At Biltmore

Information about the conference can be obtained by contacting Mrs. Rollins at FRon-tier 9-5444.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT

By FRED NEHER



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